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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith, in my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, the decisions and declaration issued by the Executive Council of the African Union at its second ordinary session, held in Ndjamena, Chad, from 3 to 6 March 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 22 (m).

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions and declaration adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its second ordinary session

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EX.CL/Dec. 2 (II)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2001-2002
- Doc. EX.CL/3 (II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** at the existing accounting system in the Commission, the lack of internal budget control and the present outmoded Financial Rules and Regulations;

3. **DECIDES** that an auditing of the Accounting system and the Financial Accounts of the whole Commission including those of the new Conference Centre be carried out in order to place the African Union on a healthy financial basis and guarantee a strict application of the Financial Rules and Regulations.

EX.CL/Dec. 3 (II)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS - Doc. EX.CL/7(II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **CONGRATULATES** Member States which are up-to-date with their contributions;

3. **URGES** all Member States to honour their financial commitments to the Union;

4. **DECIDES** that:

   i) the Sub-Committee should consider, in the light of the arrears of contribution, whether the seven month period (1 June – 31 December 2002) should be regarded as a full fiscal year or not;

   ii) the Commission should prepare the terms of reference of the Credentials Committee bearing in mind the mandate of the small team set up by the Council in Durban in July 2002;

   iii) the Member States listed hereunder remain under sanctions:

   - Guinea Bissau
   - Liberia
   - Niger
   - Central African Republic
   - Democratic Republic of Congo
   - São Tomé and Principe
   - Seychelles
   - Sierra Leone
   - Somalia
   - Union of the Comoros

   iv) Member States which present rescheduling plans should comply with such plans, while paying their contributions under the current fiscal year;

   v) A small team composed of members of the Sub-Committee and the Commission be sent to the countries under sanctions, which are not represented in Addis Ababa, to encourage them to honour their financial commitments to the Union so as to be able to participate actively in its activities;

   vi) The Sanctions on defaulting Member States should continue to be applied.

EX.CL/Dec. 4 (II)

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION - Doc. EX.CL/8(II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the Standing Sub-Committee for the excellent work it has done under the chairmanship of the Ambassador of Chad in Addis Ababa;

3. **DECIDES:**

   i) to establish a Ministerial Committee composed of 10 Members, 2 per region, to consider the issue in depth in order to find a solution acceptable to all Member States;

   The Committee is composed as follows:

   Namibia, Malawi (Southern Africa), Chad, Equatorial Guinea (Central Africa), Kenya, Mauritius (East Africa), Ghana, Nigeria (West Africa), Algeria, Libya (North Africa)

   ii) that the present Scale of Assessment should continue to be used pending the approval of the new Scale.

EX.CL/Dec. 5 (II)

DECISION ON THE BUDGET FOR 2003
– Doc. EX.CL/4(II)

The Executive Council DECIDES that:

1. the Budget for 2003 should cover the period 1 January – 31 August 2003, and be fixed at US$22,6 million to be shared among Member States, as per the existing Scale of Assessment;

2. another Draft Budget should be prepared by the Commission for the period 1 September – 31 December 2003, taking into account the Structure, Programmes and Conditions of Service of Staff to be approved by the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council which will take place in May 2003; this draft budget will be submitted for approval by the Maputo Summit;

3. a Draft Budget be prepared for the Year 2004 taking on board the Structure, Programmes and Conditions of Service to be approved by the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council which will take place in May 2003; this draft budget will be submitted for approval by the Maputo Summit.

DECISION ON THE ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS FOR ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS (EPAs) – Doc. EX.CL/10(II)a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **DECIDES** to;

2. **ENDORSE** the two papers issued by the Commission on the EPA negotiations, (Annexes I and II of the Report);

3. **REITERATE** that the African countries concerned are willing and ready to negotiate the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU as provided for in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, and to **CALL UPON** all Member States concerned to address the pending critical issues such as geographical configuration, agricultural subsidies, impact assessment studies etc.;

4. **REITERATE** that the African Union and the RECs, as its building blocks, constitute the institutional framework for African integration, solidarity and unity which must play a coordinating role for African RECs and countries in the EPA negotiations;

5. **URGE** all Member States that the conclusions of the EPAs should not undermine the unity and solidarity of Africa and the objectives, principles and processes establishing the African Union and its envisaged African Common Market;

6. **EMPHASIZE** that, because the RECs constitute the building blocks of the African Union, their negotiations and commitments with the EU in respect of the EPAs, should be coordinated by the Commission of the African Union at the levels of both the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, Geneva and Addis Ababa, and the capitals of Member States of the AU in order to ensure the maintenance of coherence in the common African positions in the WTO and the EPA negotiations;

7. **CALL UPON** Member States concerned which have not yet done so, to ratify the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, in order to qualify, *inter-alia*, for financial resources under the European Development Fund (EDF);

8. **FURTHER URGE** Member States to pursue policies of diversification and value-addition in their economic and agricultural programmes and to ensure that the continent's supply-side constraints are arduously addressed in international negotiations;

9. **REQUEST** the Commission to urgently re-activate and deploy the AU Panel of Experts to provide technical backstopping to the African negotiators, at all levels of the negotiations, and accordingly **DECIDES** that adequate budgetary provisions should be provided;

10. **FURTHER EMPHASIZE** that EPAs must address development issues and not be geared solely to the achievement of WTO rules compatibility;

11. **FURTHER REQUEST** the UNDP, AU development partner institutions and all bilateral donors to continue to provide financial resources to facilitate the effective operationalization of the AU Panel of Trade Experts.

12. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU to report regularly on the progress of the negotiations to Council and the Assembly, at all stages, for appropriate political guidance and to submit the outcomes of the EPA negotiations for the endorsement of the policy organs of the African Union.

EX.CL/Dec. 7 (II)

DECISION ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) – Doc. EX.CL/10(II)b

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **DECIDES** to ;

2. **EXPRESS** grave concern at the slow progress so far made in WTO negotiations in respect of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and take note that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the WTO is scheduled to take place in Cancun, Mexico on 10-13 September 2003;

3. **CALL UPON** Africa's development partners to fully implement the commitments they had made in Doha with respect to the core elements representing the Development Agenda;

4. **URGE** all Member States of the AU which are also members of the WTO, participating in the negotiations on Regional Trade Agreements at the WTO, and other Member States of the AU participating concurrently in ACP-EU Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations, to ensure that their commitments in these two separate negotiating forums are consistent with their regional integration commitments under the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

5. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to ensure that the positions adopted by Member States in the WTO negotiations are compatible with the provisions of both the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC); **FURTHER CALL ON** the Commission to harmonize such positions with on-going activities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) with the aim of providing technical advisory services to the African negotiators; and in that regard **CALL ON** the RECs to work in close collaboration with the Commission of the African Union;

6. **FURTHER REQUEST** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to convene urgently the First Ordinary Session of the Sub-Committee of Ministers of Trade of the Specialized Technical Committee on Trade, Customs and Immigration of the AU, in order to develop, *inter alia*, an African Common Position on issues currently under negotiations at the WTO and others that are likely to be on the Agenda of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference;

7. **CALL UPON** on the UNDP, all the Bi-lateral Development Partners as well as the relevant UN Agencies, to provide technical and financial assistance to the Commission of the African Union, to enable it undertake the necessary measures to provide technical backstopping to Member States in these important negotiations through the immediate re-activation of the AU Panel of Trade Experts;

8. **REQUEST** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, to set in motion all the necessary measures for the formal notification to the WTO of the Constitutive Act of the African Union along with the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, as a Regional Trade Agreement;

9. **AUTHORIZE** the Chairperson to renew the application of the Commission of the African Union to the Director General of the WTO and all the relevant bodies of the WTO, to request the granting of Permanent Observer Status to the African Union in all WTO Bodies;

10. **STRONGLY URGE** all Member States of the WTO to leave no stone unturned, in supporting the said application, and to appeals to all concerned to refrain from obstructing the process, and/or undertaking activities detrimental to the overall interest of the African Union in the pursuit of Permanent Observer Status at the WTO;

11. **URGE** all Member States currently engaged in negotiations in Geneva under the WTO to constantly consult and exchange information at all levels, with their counterparts in Brussels currently engaged in similar WTO-compatible Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with the European Union as well as with the Commission of the African Union;

12. **REAFFIRM** its support for AU's application for an observer status in the WTO and **CALL UPON** the African country blocking the granting of the status to desist from doing so.

EX.CL/Dec. 8(II)

DECISION ON THE SECOND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM (AGOA II) – Doc. EX.CL/10(II)c

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union to continue to monitor progress in the implementation of AGOA; examine the problems encountered by eligible countries while implementing the AGOA; and explore ways and means of expanding trade and investment between the USA and African countries, South of the Sahara;

3. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the expressed intention of the US President Georges W. Bush to recommend to the US Congress the extension of AGOA beyond 2008;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Chairperson to carry out consultations and study the ways and means of putting in place a mechanism to ensure that all African countries and their people benefit from the provisions of AGOA, particularly the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA);

5. **DIRECTS** the Commission of the Union to contact USAID with a view to exploring the possibility of assisting eligible countries to take advantage of the multi-tier capacity building initiative, namely: the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative;

6. **URGES** Member States and the Commission to also explore prospects of exploiting the newly launched Special Millennium Fund, administered by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC);

7. **APPEALS** to the Government of the United States of America to continue to support African Union's application for Observer Status at the WTO;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consult with the USTR and other relevant institutions with a view to creating a mechanism to enable all the competent organs of the African Union to work in concert with Africa's friends to ensure adoption of AGOA III which is expected to expand cooperation between the United States and African countries;

9. **CALLS** for the creation of a Consultative Mechanism at the level of the Commission of the AU, the Secretariats of the RECs and the US Trade Department, with a view to strengthening and deepening cooperation and collaboration on issues of trade, investment and development.

EX.CL/Dec. 9 (II)

DECISION ON THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE AFRICA-EUROPE SUMMIT– Doc. EX.CL/10(II)d

The Executive Council:

1. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the Africa-Europe Dialogue;

2. **DEPLORES** the unilateral postponement of the Second Africa/Europe Summit that had been scheduled for Lisbon in April 2003 which thus delays the full implementation of the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission of the African Union to pursue the dialogue within the framework of the existing mechanisms in order to take the necessary measures for implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action;

4. **REAFFIRMS** its commitment to the principle of participation of all African countries in the next Africa-Europe Summit;

5. **ENJOINS** the African-side to continue to effectively play its rightful role in organizing a meeting of experts on the Continent's external debt;

6. **DECIDES** that the projects on which there was consensual agreement and which were approved by the 2nd Ministerial Conference of Ouagadougou be partly financed, as appropriate, by common agreement, by the regular budget of the Commission;

7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union to continue with his consultations with the European side with a view to successfully resolving the issue of the convening of the next Africa-Europe Summit due to take place in Portugal.

EX.CL/Dec.10 (II)

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc.EX.CL/10 (II) e

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report ;

2. **REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT** for Afro-Arab Cooperation;

3. **DECIDES** that the African Group of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation be reconstituted and to be approved by the Executive Council meeting in Maputo in July 2003 so as revamp it and allow more Member States to participate in its work;

4. **RECOMMENDS** the convening of the 14th Session of the Standing Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation in Khartoum, The Sudan, after the 13th Session that will take place in Tripoli, Libya, in May 2003. The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and his Assistants, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and his Assistants as well as Member States of the two Organizations should be invited to participate in that Session.

EX.CL/Dec. 11(II)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF THE AU TREATIES
- Doc. EX.CL/14(II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the Member States which have signed and ratified/acceded to AU Treaties;

3. **URGES** all Member States which have not done so, to urgently ratify or accede to the AU Treaties to which they are not yet parties, as soon as possible;

4. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to conclude the consideration of all OAU Treaties to determine their relevance and make appropriate recommendations to Council.

EX.CL/Dec. 12 (II)

DECISION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN COMMODITIES - Doc. EX.CL/16(II) Add. 1

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the proposal to organize a Conference on African Commodities and **COMMENDS** the initiators;

3. **URGES** all Member States of the African Union to participate actively in this Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in July 2003;

4. **INVITES** non-African countries and international partners to attend and lend their technical and financial assistance towards the convening of the Conference;

5. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission, in collaboration with the ECA, ADB, UNCTAD, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), FAO and NEPAD Secretariat to take all necessary steps for the successful convening of the said Conference;

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson to report to the Assembly of the African Union on the results of the Conference.

EX.CL/Dec. 13 (II)

DECISION ON THE HIGH-LEVEL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM IN AFRICA – DOC. EX.CL/18 (II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the continuing threat posed by international terrorism to the peace, stability, security and development of the continent;

3. **RECALLS** the relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Code of Conduct on Inter-African Relations (AHG/Decl.2 (XXX) adopted by the 30th Ordinary Session of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Tunis, Tunisia, in June 1994;

4. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the AU High-Level Intergovernmental meeting held in Algiers from 11 to 14 September 2002, which deliberated on the practical measures for the prevention and combating of terrorism in Africa, and ways in which Africa can contribute more meaningfully to the global campaign against terrorism;

5. **ENDORSES** the Plan of Action and the recommendations of the Algiers meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa; and commends it to the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union for adoption;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on all aspects of the Algiers Plan of Action;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission, in liaison with Algeria, to initiate necessary steps for the establishment of the African Centre for Research and Studies on Terrorism in Algiers and submit a report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly in Maputo;

8. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to finalize the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in time for the consideration of the next ordinary session of the Assembly and **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to forward their observations on the draft Protocol to the Commission;

9. **WELCOMES** the entry into force, on 6 December 2002, of the 1999 Algiers Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and **URGES** all Member States that have not yet done so, to sign and/or accede to the Convention.

EX.CL/Dec. 14 (II)

DECISION ON THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION – Doc. EX.CL/15(II)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the Ministers responsible for anti-corruption measures and the experts for the work accomplished and the recommendations made;

3. **APPROVES** the draft AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption as an important mechanism for fighting corruption which is a major obstacle to the social and economic development of the Continent;

4. **RECOMMENDS** the draft AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption to the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, in July, 2003 for adoption.

EX.CL/Dec. 15 (II)

DECISION ON THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE AU AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST UNITA

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the Report of the AU Ad-Hoc Committee on the Implementation of Sanctions Against UNITA, and **COMMENDS** the *Ad-Hoc* Committee for the excellent work it accomplished in fulfilment of its mandate;

2. **RECOGNIZING** the lifting by the UN Security Council of the sanctions against UNITA, **DECIDES THAT** the AU *Ad-Hoc* Committee has successfully discharged its mandate of monitoring the implementation of the sanctions against UNITA;

3. **COGNIZANT** of the challenges of the post-conflict reconstruction of Angola, and the difficulties still facing the country in many other areas, **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission to join hands with the Government of Angola to raise international awareness on the need to backstop socio-economic reconstruction and development in Angola.

4. **STRESSES** the need for capacity building within the Commission to enable it to follow up on issues relating to the movement of arms and the smuggling of strategic minerals in conflict areas.

EX.CL/Dec. 16 (II)

DECISION ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** Decision CM/Dec. 409 (LXVIII) adopted by the 68th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and approved by the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in July 1998, by which the Assembly established the International Panel of Eminent Personalities (IPEP) to investigate the genocide in Rwanda and surrounding events;

2. **FURTHER RECALLS** the official launching of the IPEP report entitled "The Preventable Genocide" by the 36th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU held in Lomé, Togo, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary General to actively pursue implementation of the recommendations of the Report;

3. **REAFFIRMS** the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly, the prohibition of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity;

4. **STRESSES** the imperative need for the African Union to ensure enforcement of the provisions of the Constitutive Act, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in order to ensure that genocide never occurs again on the Continent;

5. **DECIDES** that 7 April 2004, the 10th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, be commemorated by the Commission as a day of remembrance of the victims of the genocide in Rwanda, and reaffirmation of Africa's resolve to prevent and fight genocide on the Continent;

6. **CALLS UPON** all Member States and civil society organizations to publicize the anniversary and commemorate 7 April as a day of reflection on the tragedy of Rwanda and of commitment to the prevention of genocide in the Continent through appropriate activities;

7. **RECOMMENDS** to the United Nations and the international community at large to take appropriate steps to commemorate 7 April 2004 as a day of reflection and recommitment against genocide in the world;

8. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to monitor the full implementation of the IPEP Report, disseminate the present decision and report to the Executive Council on the outcome of the remembrance day.

EX.CL/Dec. 17 (II)

DECISION ON THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE WORLD SOLIDARITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION FUND

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the decisions on the World Solidarity and Poverty Reduction Fund adopted by the Organization of African Unity at various levels, particularly Decision CM/Dec.654 (LXXV) of the 75th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers and Decision AHG/Dec.178 (XXXVIII) of the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government;

2. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in its 57th Regular Session, of Resolution 57/265 on the effective and definitive establishment of the World Solidarity and Poverty Reduction Fund which constitutes a new tool for addressing human development issues and a demonstration of the Principle of Solidarity among peoples;

3. **REITERATES** the need to continue to work with all the regional and international bodies concerned to implement the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/265 for the rapid and concrete operationalisation of the World Solidarity and Poverty Reduction Fund;

4. **URGES** Member States to contribute voluntarily to raise the requisite financial resources to enable the Fund to undertake its activities and attain its objectives of combating poverty and establishing the Principle of Solidarity among the peoples of the international community;

5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to encourage African Civil Society Organizations, the private sector and individuals to assist in mobilizing financial resources for the Fund to enable it fulfil its objectives.

EX.CL/Dec. 18 (II)

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the said Report;

3. **DECIDES** to endorse the following candidatures:

   a) Mrs. Monica M. Mbanefo of Nigeria, for the post of Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) which will be declared vacant in 2003.

   b) Republic of Tunisia for membership of the Governing Body of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period 2003-2005 at the elections to be held during the 47th session of the IAEA General Conference scheduled to take place in Vienna, in September 2003.

   c) Federal Republic of Nigeria for a seat on the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the 2003-2005 period at the elections scheduled to be held during the 47th Session of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna, in September 2003.

   d) Maître Ali Sirfi Maiga of Niger, for the post of Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.

   e) Justice Navanethem Pillay of South Africa, for the post of Judge at the International Criminal Court.

   f) Mr. Guila Thiam of Senegal, for the post of Secretary General of the International French-Speaking Radio and Television Stations (CIRTEF).

   g) Republic of South Africa for a seat on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council at the Extraordinary Assembly to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 31 March to 1 April 2003.

h) Republic of Tunisia for a seat on the Executive Board of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) during elections to be held at the 15th WTO General Assembly scheduled to take place in Beijing from 17 to 24 October 2003.

i) Pilot Dr. Medhat M. Arafa of Egypt, for the membership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) for the period 2003- 2007 during the elections to be held in Geneva from 4-25 of May 2003.

j) Dr. Ade Adigun Abiodun of Nigeria, for the post of Chairman, UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUS) during elections due to take place in Vienna, on 11-12 June 2003.

4. **REQUESTS** the African Group in New York to examine and, as soon as possible, submit appropriate recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on the candidature of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for membership of the Security Council for the period 2004-2005;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the African Group in New York to examine and, as soon as possible, submit appropriate recommendations to the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures on the candidature of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for a seat allocated to the African Group of States in the United Nations Security Council for the year 2005-2006, at the elections to be held during the 59th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2004;

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the candidatures of Dr. Luis Gomes Sambo of Angola, current Deputy Director of the World Health Organisation, Africa Regional Office (WHO/AFRO); and of Dr. Evarist Kizito Njelesani of Zambia, for the position of World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa;

7. **TAKES NOTE** of the candidature of Mr. Hamad Kalbaba Malboum of Cameroun, for the post of President of the African Amateur Athletics Federation (AAAF) during the elections scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt, from 10 to 12 April 2003.

8. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) to consider the proposal for amendment to Rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures.

EX.CL/Dec. 19 (II)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHAIRPERSON ON THE STATUS OF CANDIDATURES FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report with appreciation;

2. **APPEALS** to all regions to comply with the requirements of the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Statutes of the Commission;

3. **DECIDES** to extend the deadlines adopted by its Second Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia relating to the Election of the Commissioners as follows:

   a. submission of names of regional representatives in the Ministerial Panel to 15 March 2003;

   b. submission of candidatures for Commissioners to 30 March 2003 ;

   c. the completion of the work of the Ministerial Panel to 15 April 2003;

   d. circulation of all candidatures to all Member States for the post of Commissioner to 30 April 2003, thus, at least 2 months before the elections;

4. **DECIDES** that the deadline for submission of candidatures for the post of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be extended to 30 March 2003 and the candidatures to be circulated to all Member States by 10 April 2003, thus, at least 3 months before the elections in Maputo.

EX.CL/Decl.1(II)

DECLARATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON THE STATE OF THE ACP-EU, EPAS AND THE WTO INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

We, the Ministers of the Executive Council of the African Union meeting in our Third Ordinary Session in N'Djamena, Chad, from 5 to 6 March 2003:

- **DETERMINED** to take up the challenge of promoting rapid and sustainable socio-economic development of our countries and integrating our continent into the global economy as an effective and respectable partner;

- **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs) negotiations within the framework of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and the WTO negotiations within the context of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA);

- **REAFFIRMING** that the African Union and its programme - the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) constitute respectively the key institutional and programmatic frameworks for achieving the unity, solidarity, integration and development of our countries;

1. **DECLARE** that:

   a) the conclusions of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) should not undermine the unity and solidarity of Africa and the objectives, principles, and processes of the African Union and the NEPAD;

   b) the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are the building blocks of the African Union and should therefore serve as much as possible as the base for Africa's geographical configuration for the negotiations;

   c) any commitments between the RECs and the EU in respect of EPAs should be coordinated by the Commission of the African Union at the levels of both the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels, Geneva, Addis Ababa, and the capitals of Member States of the AU in order to ensure the maintenance of coherence in the Common African Positions and consistency with the objectives of the African Union;

   d) EPAs must address development issues and should not be geared solely to the achievement of compatibility with WTO rules;

2. **EXPRESS** our concern at the slow progress in the WTO negotiations and the failure to take seriously on board the development issues that are of interest to Africa;

3. **CALL UPON** Africa's development partners not to renege on the commitments they made in Doha with respect to the core elements of the Development Agenda;

4. **URGE** all Member States of the African Union to take full advantage of the technical assistance programmes provided for in the Doha Declaration;

5. **DIRECT** the Commission of the African Union to put in place an appropriate mechanism for the coordination of the RECs and the African Group of Ambassadors in Addis Ababa, Brussels and Geneva.